

## INITIATIVE 193

I, Ralph Munro, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 193 to the Legislature is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1       AN ACT Relating to English as the official language of Washington  
2       state; and adding new sections to chapter 1.20 RCW.

3       BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.**   (1) The English language is the official  
5       language of the state of Washington.

6       (2) As the official language of this state, English is the language  
7       of the ballot, public schools, and all government functions and  
8       actions.

9       (3) This section applies to:

10      (a) The legislative, executive, and judicial branches of  
11      government;

12      (b) All political subdivisions, departments, agencies,  
13      organizations, and instrumentalities of the state, including local  
14      governments and municipalities;

15      (c) All statutes, ordinances, rules, orders, contracts, programs,  
16      pamphlets, and policies; and

17      (d) All government officials and employees during the performance  
18      of government business.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    The state and all political subdivisions of  
2    the state must take all reasonable steps to preserve, protect, enhance,  
3    and support the role of the English language as the official language  
4    of the state of Washington.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of  
6    this section:

7        (a) The state and all political subdivisions of the state must act  
8    in English and in no other language.

9        (b) No entity to which this section applies may make or enforce a  
10   law, order, decree, or policy that requires the use of a language other  
11   than English.

12       (c) No governmental document shall be valid, effective, or  
13   enforceable unless it is in the English language.

14       (2) The state and all political subdivisions of the state may act  
15   in a language other than English under any of the following  
16   circumstances:

17       (a) To assist students who are not proficient in the English  
18   language, to the extent necessary to comply with federal law, by giving  
19   educational instruction in a language other than English to provide as  
20   rapid as possible a transition to English;

21       (b) To comply with other federal laws;

22       (c) To teach a student a foreign language as a part of a required  
23   or voluntary educational curriculum;

24       (d) To protect public health or safety;

25       (e) To protect the rights of criminal defendants or victims of  
26   crime; and

27       (f) For historical or ceremonial functions.

28       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    A person who resides in or does business in  
29   the state has standing to bring suit to enforce this section in a court  
30   of record of the state.    The legislature may enact reasonable  
31   limitations on the time and manner of bringing suit under this section.

32       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    If any provision of this act or its  
33   application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
34   remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
35   persons or circumstances is not affected.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**   Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each  
2   added to chapter 1.20 RCW.

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